



FREE !

Ø 8 ©



Zine address:

Hello folks!

PB 1569
1000 BN
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Pride '96, NYC

**NO BORDERS
FOR THE RICH**

Prize
without borders

**NO PRIDE
FOR THE POOR**

The real meaning behind
this years slogan!

Well here it is at last, my second attempt. I'm not sure if I've achieved all my aims but I've had a go. In this issue I've split things up into sections, partly because I wanted to concentrate my thoughts into certain areas. So we have "Queer is Closet", "Respectability", "Berlin" & "I'm Queer you're Straight". I did hope that this would lead on from issue 1 & in a way it has. The first part is really about challenging yourself, the second a bit of history - I always like to remind myself and others about our twisted past. "Berlin" was written for the Dirty Bird Queercore event in SanFran this year but I was Stranded in New York, too poor and ill to make it so here is some of it now. The last bit is, well, the last bit, 70's Cartoons and stuff from friends. I hope you get something out of this, let's have feedback - I can take it, I'll try not to cry.

I did hope to write a section on New York since I spent two months there squatting in the Lower East Side. However it would have been so cutting and angry that I decided not to. It's a sad fact that solidarity is a word lost on most, survival seems to cut people off more than build them up. I did meet some great people there and I dedicate this zine to them. Struggling along on your own isn't easy, but remember your not alone, none of us are, it's just that most people are too straight and too stupid to understand.

Be Active, Be Ready!

Vaz

You know I used to get really pissed off when I used to hear comments like "I hate men, there all the same - macho fascists" and wonder why. I guess at the time I used to attach myself to a gender group; like I used to attach myself to the concept of being gay, I hate being dumped into this category of being male by virtue of my physical appearance, this social stereotype of maleness that I'm not allowed to forget. In the end I end up with a wierd kind of alienation of not belonging to any particular group, to me its all bull shit but to everyone else it matters.

And so I question, I question so-called solidarity based on gender, just as I question one based on class or skin colour; all this belonging, how its supposed to give us power and strength and all that jazz. all this false solidarity, all this obsession with our micro-identities, our parts - we're all blind and the state loves it, how much easier it is to control us when we're all so buisy polarizing ourselves into homo/hetro, male/female, black/white...Needless to say capitalism, nationalism, fascism all thrive under these conditions since it intalls inequality, hierarchy and power structures firmly in place.

What we need to do is constantly re-evaluate ourselves, shake off our indoctrination, we are:

poor, not poor
hetro, not hetro
catholic, not catholic
black, not black
woman, not woman
english, not english
name, not name.....get the idea?

GENDER DEVIANT
SEXUAL PERVERT
RACE TRAITOR
QUEER



So that feels better doesn't it? Like fuck it does - we must refuse identity, we can be all 'Queer' - there is nothing else, just substitute the human in Humankind for Queer - nothing simpler and substitute staight for oppress and all is clear.

What else? Be a TRAITOR to 'your' sex, 'race', family, country, class, history, culture - be liberated. Confrunt your ghetto, group, clique - maybe then we would be ourselves and able to unite honestly - maybe.

But meanwhile how if we are against micro-identification(yikes but I hate that word) and therefore do not identify with our skin colour(for example) do we place liberal notions of positive discrimination i.e. giving 'black' people a chance in the 'white' world, what about womens spaces, gay bars...all these 'advances' in equality. The usual argument here is that in an 'ideal world' i.e. in the idealistic future we wouldn't need them, thats true but lets face it how likely is it that we ever reach that point. So should we dump them or not? - that is the dilemma we face.

Indeed can we or even have we the courage to become stateless, sexless, renounce our families, tear up our I.D cards and how as an individual do you influence a ridged society, one where there are always assumptions, categorisations and pre-conseptions based on your look or behaviour & who will support you, after all your not a member of any club.

But hey, isn't this the time to do it? look about you. The 'family unit' as the basis for capitalism is falling apart. so called gains in equality are collapsing around our ears, even the concept of the nation state is waning as power blocks(NAFTA, EU), world beaurocracies(WTO, World Bank) and multinationals(Mc this and fucking that) take over. Liberal democracy has no meaning, so what power can women, gays, blacks..etc have by themselves and indeed who are they trying to save - who the fuck are they(unwittingly) supporting?

I know what I'm saying maybe old hat, but i'm sick of people who identify as liberal or even as anarchists who are in fact running around like headless chickens spewing reactionist crap or ill thought statements simply because they dont look to themselves. Its not easy, but hey if you dont do it how the hell will we ever move on.

SKinHeaD'S

don't forget your roots
Think wid yer brains
& not wid yer Boots

Stay Rude !

Stay Rebel !

Stay SHARP



Black & White UNITE



"Queer is Closet"

"Queer is anti-homosexual. The Queer community does not exist. Queer is our enemy, when I hear 'Queer' I reach for the Kalashnikov"

Craig Johnston, 20yrs a gay activist
(letter to the Sydney Star Observer)

A nice little reminder of the 'queerphobes' out there. This is exactly the kind of comment you expect from fascists everywhere, he is just one of those sad identity politics freaks that has'n't moved on, what has he been doing all this time?

This and other articles at the time got in a right little state over this word 'queer':



There is no "gay community"
only gay conformity

SOME (queer bisexuals) saw it as a way to identify as those attempting to bridge the gap between homo and heterosexuals.

SOME (media types) saw it as 'political', 'contemporary' and above all it looked good on your titles! say no more.

SOME (gay/queers') saw it as meaning homo's, fags and gays NOT bisexuals, fag hags and fruit flies.

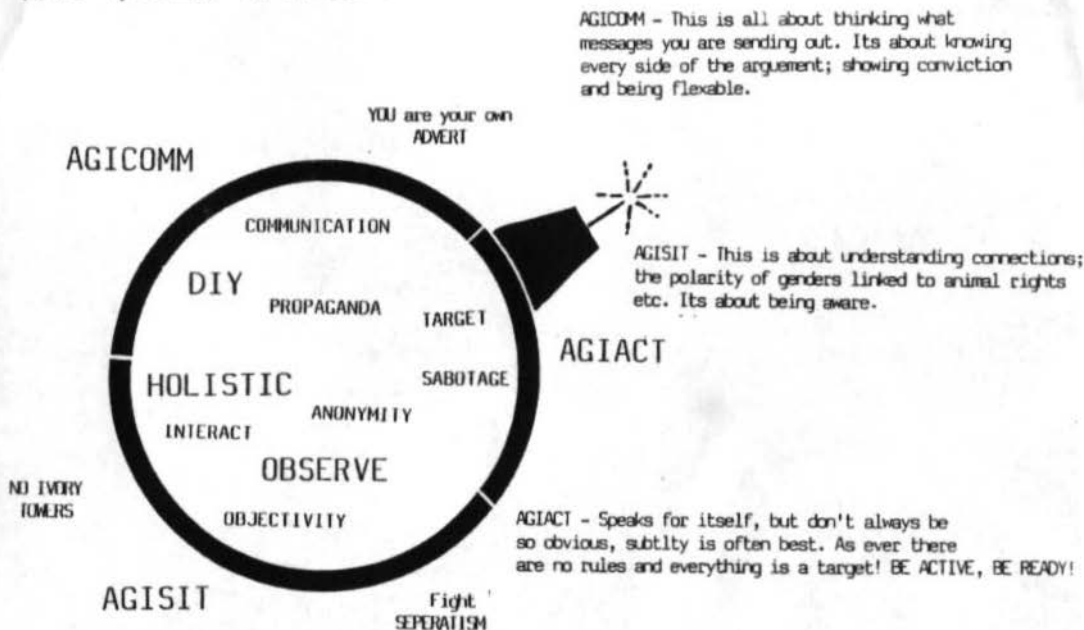
SOME (regular queers) saw it as anyone who is different, not conforming to the norm - attacking class, race, patriarchy.... ∴ Queer hetero's are possible.

SOME (Traditional queers) saw it as a reminder of what hetero's thought of us and how as a term of abuse it could be turned around on them and used to empower us.

A worry the 'gay community' apparently has is that by identifying as Queer in the widest sense then you make Lesbians & Gays invisible again. Also that this movement away from identity politics removes our base that we used to demand rights. but isn't it time we moved away from all this fiddleling around the edges, which is what human rights groups consistently do. do we submerge ourselves in a micro-identity; constantly creating little sub-groups that we can become a member of. Being Lesbian or gay now is restrictive and describes very little - claims by some gay activists that we should only (as gays) campaign in for example bisexual rights for the gay part of the identity and not the straight side is out of step, naïve, and bloody laughable

So where does all this leave us, well I'm just a regular Queer but I really do have to ask myself - is it possible to be Queer? to disconnect yourself from society, can we live our utopian Queer dreams - can we get by? Sometimes you can be Queer by connecting to punk, anarchist, sexperv, underground and alternative scenes; whilst of course recognising their restrictive nature. It is a basic lesson to learn that they will all ultimately fail you since they cannot escape the influence of the dominant cultures ethos of restricted thinking and separatism. So to get on with things, you've been absorbing all this stuff and there is a big hole, so maybe its time to look to yourself(again), as they say "you are your own revolution". So lets chew on a few thoughts that should be crossing your mind on a daily basis, that if your still trying to be Queer and hav'n't thrown up your hands in despair or turned into an old cynic.

THE QUEER SPHERE:



All this is built up around 'the self' - MIND, BODY & SPIRIT, your politics, aspirations or dreams will never develop unless you sort this area out. Illness, frustration, selfishness, arrogance, impatience and ignorance will hinder all you hopes and you alone will be responsible for the continuation of all that which you supposedly fight against.

All this will be obvious to a lot of people and I again wonder who am I aiming at with this Zine, I guess I just hope it hits home to one person who hadn't thought of this or that. For example do I have to remind people to GENDERFUCK your brains out? I'm not talking about traditional 'drag' ideas, mostly I find them whuck in a simple, if not conceited timewarp - let's get this masculine/femine stereotype sorted out please! Someone told me to use the word 'se' instead of 'he' or 'she', maybe if we thought more about ideas like this things would move on. Lets forget this 'cross' dressing and concentrate more on 'crash' dressing, because don't get me wrong, personal expression like this can be a powerful form of AGICOM.

I also want to mention something about reliance. My basic advise is avoid it because you will never be dissappointed by others letting you down. However we're human and the support of friends cannot be underestimated, as indeed your support of others is partly what being Queer is all about. However reliance can lead to apathy and sloth, and this my friends is exactly what our oppressors use to disempower us, stringing us along like idiots. We rely on thier 'benevolence' for jobs, housing, health, education ... we forget how to live without this and all our 'necessary' possessions - in fact we forget to rely on ourselves and indeed, contrary to what they tell us, they don't want us to.

REMEMBER - **BE ACTIVE, BE READY!**